



REPRESENTATIVE
HENRY A. WAXMAN
33rd Congressional District of California



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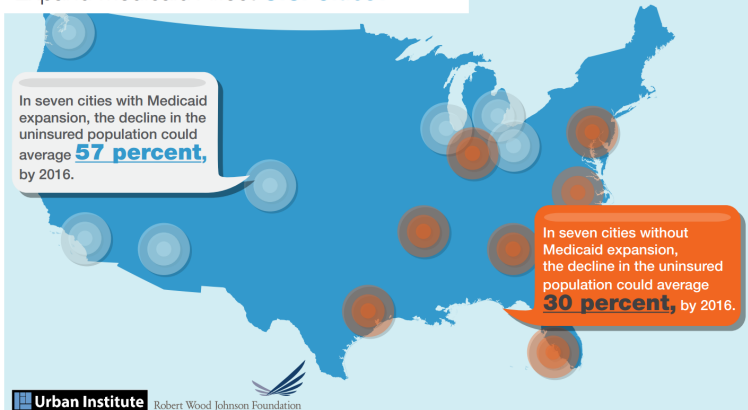
June 24, 2014

Dear Friend,

I wanted to take a moment to share some things I've been working on over the last couple of weeks.

The Affordable Care Act at Work

How Will State Decisions to Expand Medicaid Affect **U.S. Cities?**



Infographic: How Will State Decisions to Expand Medicaid Affect U.S. Cities?

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report showing that among those signing up through the federal marketplace, nearly 90% received tax credits to help them afford coverage. These tax credits cut premiums by more than 75%. As a result, nearly 7 in 10 enrollees are paying \$100 or less per month and nearly half are paying \$50 or less per month. The average premium after tax credits is \$82 per month and the average for those selecting Silver plans – the most popular plan type – is \$69 per month.

Soon after the release of the HHS report, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Urban Institute released a study showing us that in many major U.S. cities, the uninsured population is expected to decline drastically over the next two years. In Los Angeles alone, plans offered through Covered California will help lead to a 56% reduction in our uninsured population by 2016.

This is great news for all Americans.

Click [here](#) for the full HHS report. And click [here](#) for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Urban Institute report.



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Caring for Our Veterans

After months of disturbing allegations at specific U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a scathing preliminary report that confirmed many of these claims of excessive wait times and negligent scheduling practices. In response, the OIG has expanded its probe to 69 VA medical facilities and the Department of Justice is investigating possible criminal activity.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki took personal responsibility for the VA's failures and announced his resignation on May 30. Prior to stepping down, Secretary Shinseki announced a new "face-to-face" audit of all 150 VA medical centers and 820 community outpatient clinics across the country and placed the leadership at the VA facility in Phoenix, AZ on leave. New Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson has built on these efforts by instituting random site visits and continuing the process to replace the VA's medical appointment scheduling system.

The brave men and women who serve our country deserve to have the best possible care and we owe it to them to foot out the VA's systemic problems. I joined with fourteen of my California colleagues to request additional details about the face-to-face audit of the West Los Angeles VA facility. Click [here](#) for the full letter.

It's Time for Congress to Wake Up& Act on Climate Change

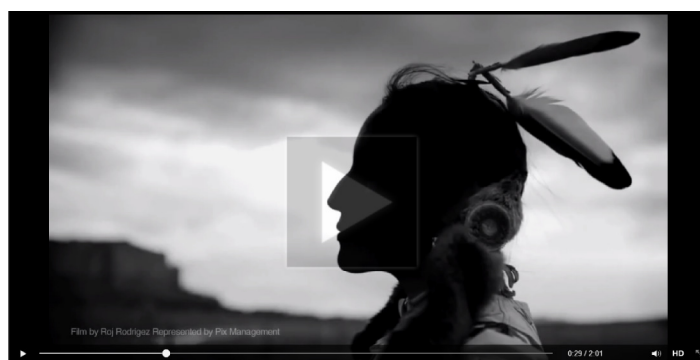


Video from the Wake Up on Climate Change Action Rally

On May 21, I joined nearly 40 Representatives and Senators at a climate change action rally in Washington, D.C. We came together to call on our Republican colleagues in Congress to "wake up" and work with us to pass meaningful climate change legislation. Scientists tell us that climate change is unequivocal, and that unless we begin to take actions now we may reach a point where it's too late. We are at a crossroads. We can protect our environment by investing in the clean energy economy of the future, or we can deny the science and watch our coastlines erode, our forests burn, and our crops wither. Climate change is an environmental issue. It is an economic issue. But it is also fundamentally a moral issue -- we must act now.

Click [here](#) or the above image to watch my full remarks.

Examining the Derogatory "Washington Redskins" NFL Team Name



Video provided by ChangeTheMascot.org

On May 9, in the wake of NBA owner Don Sterling's ban for life for racist comments, I wrote House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton urging him to hold a hearing to examine another instance of racial insensitivity in professional sports: the use of the derogatory term "Redskins" as the name of the Washington football team.

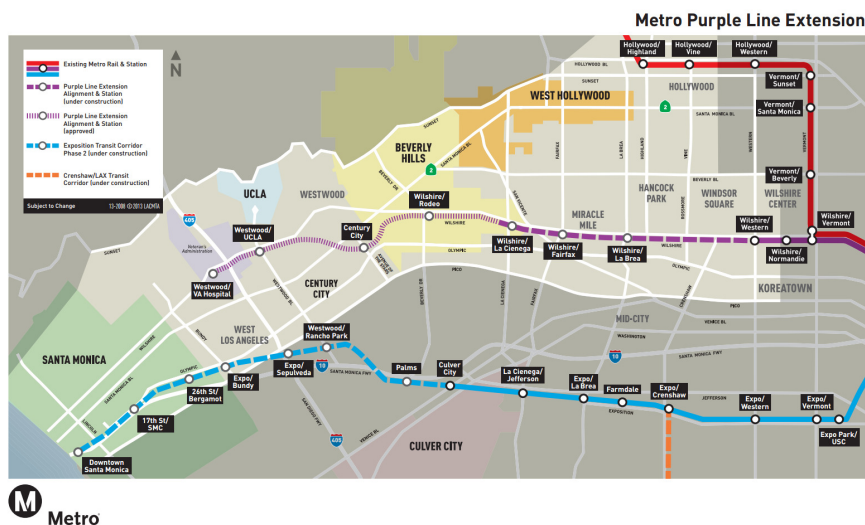
The term "Redskins" is a racist slur that offends Native Americans and its continued use in professional football is unconscionable.

Fifty years ago, the Washington football team was the last segregated franchise in the NFL. It took public pressure by the federal government to convince team owner George Marshall to integrate the team. As the Committee with primary jurisdiction over professional sports, the Committee on Energy and Commerce could play a constructive role in challenging racism by asking the owner of Washington's football team, Dan Snyder and the Commissioner of the National Football League Roger Goodell, to explain in a public hearing how their actions are consistent with the public interest.

As you may know, earlier this week the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office cancelled six trademarks that belong to the Washington team because they are offensive to Native Americans. The team has appealed this ruling. I will continue to monitor developments closely.

Click [here](#) for my letter to Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Upton.

LA Metro Purple Line Extension

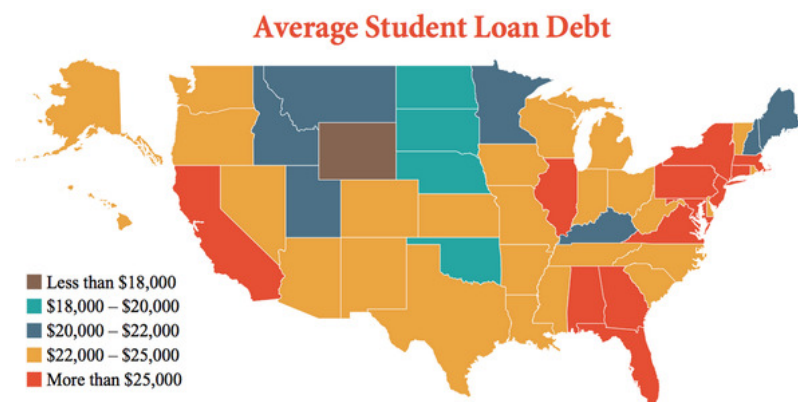


Map of LA Metro Purple Line Extension

Recently, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Purple Line extension. This project will turn years of planning into a reality that, when finished, will connect Westwood to Union Station in just 25 minutes. I applaud the work so many have put into this effort.

Click [here](#) for more information about the upcoming Purple Line extension project.

The Cost of Higher Education



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, using 2012 third quarter data. Data for Alaska is from the Federal Reserve Board of New York Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax. Data for U.S. territories and protectorates were not yet available.

Earlier this month, President Obama announced a series of executive actions that will reduce the burden of student loan debt and make college more affordable for all Americans. Higher education is one of the most important investments we can make in our future and I applaud the President's efforts. I am also a cosponsor of the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, which would allow millions of borrowers to refinance their existing student loans at lower interest rates, similar to those currently available to new borrowers today. It is time for America to bank on its students.

Click [here](#) for more information.

A Humbling Experience



From Left to Right: Aaron Wilensky, Lindsay Bubar, Cristina Romero, Joey Apodaca, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Paul Koretz, Rachel Zaiden, Representative Henry Waxman, Alisa Lalana, Janet Waxman, Brian Sutter, Claire Goldberg, Councilmember Mike Bonin, Lisa Pinto, Evan K

On Friday, June 13 the L.A. City Council proclaimed the day "Henry Waxman Day in LA." I thought you might be interested in seeing some photos from the day. Click [here](#) or the above image to visit my photo gallery. Click [here](#) to watch a full recording of the event on YouTube.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the kind words I've gotten from so many of you since I announced I would be retiring at the end of this year.

Thank you,



Henry A. Waxman

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